

MUSEUM NEWS

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PRINCESS DE ROHAN

JEAN-MARC NATTIER (1685-1766)

GIFT OF EDWARD DRUMMOND LIBBEY

THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART
FOUNDED BY EDWARD DRUMMOND LIBBEY

A GALLERY OF FRENCH ART

THE FIRST OF A SERIES of Museum gallery reinstallations to be completed is that of the collection of French art. Together with the Claude Lorrain, David and Courbet, a number of recent acquisitions will be shown for the first time on Sunday, November 2. These will include paintings and decorative arts of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

In the eighteenth century, the French monarchy, weakened by unsuccessful wars, a corrupt tax structure and the intrigues of royal favorites, found its power no longer absolute. Heavy Protestant emigration after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes (1685) had unbalanced the social structure. Enormous wealth was concentrated in the hands of a court and aristocracy which, surfeited with impersonal splendor and inflated allegory, turned to the decorative elegance of the Rococo and lavishly patronized royally sponsored artistic enterprises.

In 1741 Jean-Marc Nattier painted the Princess de Rohan seated in a dramatic landscape and holding Bossuet's *Discours sur l'histoire universelle*, a book which attempted to explain world history in terms of Christianity. Descended from a great family, the Princess was to become a rival of Mme. de Pompadour for the favor of Louis XV. Nattier created a portrait-type of idealized woman which suggests the fashionable learning of the Age of Enlightenment and the refined hedonism of a voluptuous court.



EVENING

JOSEPH VERNET (1712-1789)

GIFT OF EDWARD DRUMMOND LIBBEY



The name of another member of this family, Louis René Cardinal de Rohan, is associated with a magnificent service of Sèvres porcelain, made for him in 1771, eighteen pieces of which have come to the Museum as the gift of Royce G. Martin in memory of his wife. The body is of soft-paste, which was well adapted to take such a glaze as the famous *bleu céleste*, one of many colors invented for the Royal Manufactory at Sèvres.

The marines of Joseph Vernet show close observation of Claude Lorrain's composition, but they are often characterized by natural detail and romantic mood which suggest extensive observation around the seaports he usually painted. This picture, *Evening*, is from a series of imaginary seascapes illustrating four times of the day which was executed for an Irish patron in 1753.

A Boulle table, its ebony inlaid with brass strips and ornamented with gold-covered bronze, represents with its rather massive, slowly curving forms the Baroque style of about 1700-1715. The finely cast and chased masks decorate the sides of a piece probably intended as a library writing table. Later in the century a classicizing restraint caused ornament to become less boldly three-dimensional. A large pair of caryatid-supported bronze and ormolu candelabra date from about 1775 and the delicate acanthus leaf scrollwork on their cylindrical bases is characteristic of this time.



A LECTURE FOR MUSEUM MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, November 2, at three o'clock, in the new French Gallery, a lecture on CHATEAUX AND TREASURES OF FRANCE will be given by M. Jacques Dupont, Inspector-General of the Historic Monuments of France. You are cordially invited.

ADMISSION FREE AT ALL TIMES

OTHER DAYS, 9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

HOLIDAYS, 1 - 5 P.M.

HOURS: SUNDAYS, MONDAYS, AND

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NOVEMBER EXHIBITIONS

ELIEL SAARINEN MEMORIAL EXHIBITION—A demonstration of the belief of this great architect of Cranbrook, that not only the building but also the rugs and furnishings which go into it should be designed by the architect. In this exhibition, supplementing photographic panels and drawings, may be seen furniture designed by Saarinen for his own residence at Cranbrook, the Cranbrook Tapestry woven by Mrs. Saarinen, and other objects.

CONTEMPORARY COLOR LITHOGRAPHY—Sixty prints by artists of fourteen countries, including the United States, make an interesting show of the most recent works in this medium. Many of the prints are for sale at reasonable prices.

WORK OF THE ART FACULTY OF BOWLING GREEN UNIVERSITY—In Gallery 8 will be shown paintings, sculpture, graphic arts, ceramics and metal work by our neighboring artists, many of whom have been included in recent Toledo Area Artists exhibitions.

CONCERT CALENDAR

November 7—Gallery Concert—NEW MUSIC QUARTET

November 11—Peristyle Concert—DANISH STATE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

November 21—Peristyle Concert—CLEVELAND ORCHESTRA